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GERMAN MANOEUVRES IN LONDON.

SALE OF THE LONDON EMERY CO.

Six months ago *The Daily Mail* called attention to the manner in which the Public Trustee, the Board of Trade, and the Ministry of Munitions had dealt with the German Emery Company, Limited, the managing director of which was Emil Selwyn, otherwise Seeligmann, a German who became a British subject by naturalisation in 1908.

It is now possible to add another chapter to the extraordinary history of this company and its managing director.

It will be remembered that the first attempt to close up this business by sale at public auction at Tokenhouse Yard transformed the auction room into a meeting of protest against "selling a German born." The proposal at that time was to sell the company, which was formed after the outbreak of war, by Selwyn-Seeligmann, without disclosing the fact that he had appointed himself managing director for life at a salary of £1,250 a year.

MANAGER "PROBABLY" TO REMAIN. When the sale by auction was rendered abortive by publication of these facts the Board of Trade appointed a controller, Mr. R. Evans Smith, and offered the works, without Selwyn-Seeligmann, for sale by tender. Purchasers were advised that they would not be required to take over the German-born director, and that the Government wished the business, which is important to many branches of munition work, to pass into the hands of persons who understood the business and would carry it on in the national interests.

Then, under instructions from the Board of Trade, Mr. Evans Smith, the Controller, accepted a tender submitted by a Henry Randall, the European agent of the Royal Worcester Corset Company, an American concern. An official of the Board of Trade acknowledged that Mr. Randall knew nothing of the emery business and stated that he would, "in all probability," retain Emil Selwyn as manager.

Mr. Henry William Randall, the European agent of the Royal Worcester Corset Company of America, whose tender for the works had been accepted, is married to the sister of Frau Buchholz, of Hannover, wife of one of the German owners of the works. Instructions have, therefore, been given to the Controller, Mr. R. Evans Smith, not to proceed with the completion of the contract for the present.

This satisfactory result followed the revelation in *The Daily Mail* of the relationship between Randall and Buchholz. It is now two years since the late Sir Arthur Markham first called public attention to the preference given to the German-owned London Emery Works in the matter of Government contracts. On November 17th, 1915, Sir Arthur asked the President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Runciman:—

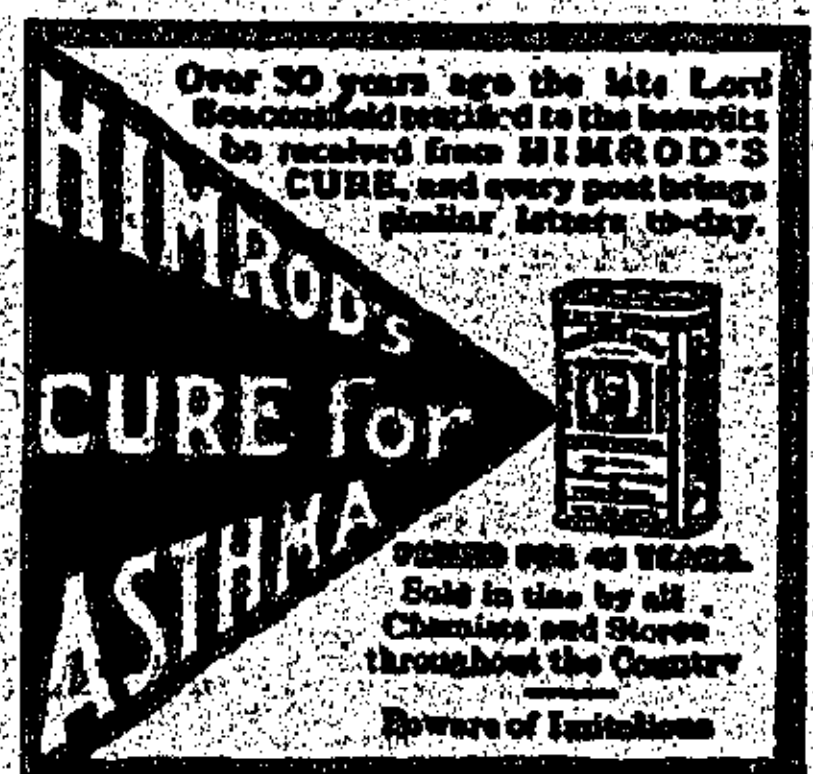
"Whether he was aware that this firm was an offshoot of the German 'Yarnspinnerei Schmirgel Fabrik' at Hainhof, near Rintow; and whether, seeing the London Emery Works, Ltd., was registered as a British concern after the war, and that they had received Government orders while purely British companies doing a similar business had been short of Government orders, he had communicated to the Government Departments the fact that this was a German firm the accumulated profits of which would at the end of the war go to the German parent company."

Mr. Runciman stated in reply that "the shares are held in trust for an enemy and the business is a branch of the German company referred to." He had appointed a supervisor, and profits were being paid to the Public Trustee as custodian.

Questions and answers such as these, submitted by others in December 1915, and April 1917, might have prompted the Ministry of Munitions and the Board of Trade to deal simply and firmly with the London Emery Works and the German-born part owner and manager Selwyn-Seeligmann by stopping all supplies and contracts. This was not done and as a result the Departments have been led into the present quagmire.

IN THE HANDS OF THE TURK.

Is it too much to hope, after General Maude's victory and our great haul of Turkish prisoners, that we may be able to exact better terms for our men who were taken at Kut? There has been a mischievous fable in circulation that the Turk is a humane person, who treats his prisoners well. Now it is true that so many of our men have been released, some of our officers have been fairly well treated, but our poor men have been put through a most atrocious mill of starvation, cruelty, and neglect. We hear, for example, that of one battalion three hundred prisoners were taken at Kut, and only seventy-nine survive. What a tragedy of suffering is dimly shadowed forth in these terrible figures—79 alive out of 300! And so it is with other battalions. What has happened to the unfortunate Indian troops and camp followers we do not know; but it is the business and duty of the authorities to do more than apparently is being done. By the way, although things are much better in Mesopotamia, there is still a good deal that is wrong. We gather that the Indian Babus of the various Services are being treated in a manner truly colossal. One of them was detected after he had made eight lakhs swindling the transport. He was tried by court martial and sentenced to a fine of two lakhs and five years' imprisonment. But as the net result was something over a lakh for each year in prison we need not suppose that the sentence was a deterrent. Moreover, we have little doubt that the case will attract the sympathy of Mr. Montagu, and that the suffering Babu will be released in order to help in creating that atmosphere which seems necessary for the birth-chamber of Democracy, whether in Ireland or in India. *Morning Post.*



BESTOWAL OF HONOURS.

DEBATE IN THE LORDS.

LORD SELBORNE'S DISCLOSURES.

There was an extremely piquant debate in the House of Lords last month (says *The Times*), on the alleged sale of honours. The Peers unanimously resolved that the notification of an honour should be accompanied in future by a definite public statement of the reasons for which it had been recommended to the Crown, and that the Prime Minister should satisfy himself that no payment or expectation of payment to any party fund was associated with the grant. By 48 votes to 34 they declined to pass the judgment, submitted to them by Lord Loreburn, that Ministers had in recent times been guilty of the practice of which complaint was made.

The debate attracted a big House. The discussion was of an animated character, and some of the speeches can only be described as "racy." The last debate on the subject in the summer fell short of expectations, and the inherent difficulty of submitting cases establishing a connection between the bestowal of honours and payments to party funds, with names, dates, and other relevant particulars. This omission was now made good, notably by Lord Selborne, who placed the following five cases before an astonished House:—

(1)—Sir James Gildes, the founder of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, was offered £25,000 by one person, £10,000 by another, and £10,000 by a third for his association, if he would undertake to use any influence he possessed to obtain a baronetcy or knighthood for those individuals. He replied that he would have nothing to do with such transactions.

(2)—Dr. Millard, the Medical Officer of Health for Leicester, approached a local political association, and asked whether an honour could not be obtained for a friend of his who had done great public service. The answer of the local leader of the association was:—"Certainly, we will consider your suggestion; but we must be quite frank with you. We know it is very objectionable, but we have got to do it. What is your friend prepared to pay? There the matter dropped."

(3)—Some friends of Mr. George Holman, who had been Mayor of Lewes several times, told him in 1913 that they would like to get an honour for him. One of them went straight to the headquarters of the Whip of that day. The Whip said, "Yes, it is a clear case for an honour. What is your friend prepared to give?" Mr. Holman refused to give a penny to the party funds. His friend again saw the Whip, who said, "It is a very good case for an honour, but an honour is shall not have unless he contributes to my party fund."

(4)—At the time the Licensing Bill of the Liberal Government was before the House of Commons, a friend went to Sir George Kekewich and said he wanted a knighthood. The friend was introduced to the Whip, and was told there would be no difficulty in granting his request on condition that he abandoned his opposition to the Licensing Bill and subscribed £5,000 to the party funds. "All right," he said, and his name appeared in the next list of Honours.

(5)—Another friend of Sir George Kekewich's wanted a baronetcy. He was told he would have to give £25,000, and replied that he was quite ready to do so. But, before the matter was completed, he withdrew his application.

Other cases were mentioned by Lord Loreburn in introducing the subject, though without the same wealth of detail. He gave two illustrations, one from the buyer's side and the other from the seller's. A friend had told him that he had been approached with a proposal that he should pay £25,000 for a baronetcy or £15,000 for a knighthood. He did not want a title, and refused. He was told that there was a chance of pulling it off, if he would go to £10,000 for a knighthood, and that, if he wanted a baronetcy later, the full valuation for the first honour would be allowed. Another friend, who had been in a position of official authority, had told him that he had sold titles, and had given him two examples.

Lord Curzon replied for the Government, and chafed Lord Loreburn for his share in securing the assent of the Sovereign to the creation of a large enough number of peers to override any possible opposition to the Parliament Bill. He urged that, if those peerages had been conferred for the willingness to give a vote for a purely party measure, it would have been a transaction far more open to reproach than any which Lord Loreburn had condemned. He was quite willing that the Government should grant an honour should be accompanied by a public statement of the reasons for which it had been made. As for the second suggestion, he accepted for the Government the position that the Prime Minister should satisfy himself that no payment, or expectation of payment, to a party fund was associated with the grant of an honour. He agreed in conclusion that the common aim was to stop the prostitution and abuse of honours.

The division was then taken, and Lord Loreburn's motion was carried, amended in the sense suggested by Lord Curzon.

GERMANY'S LOST LEGIONS.

Since the beginning of the war over 30,000 inhabitants of Alsace and Lorraine have succeeded in deserting from the German army or from German jurisdiction and escaping into France, where they have enlisted in the French armies, writes Mr. Henry Wood, of the United Press.

THE ADVANCE OF FREIGHTS.

EXPLANATIONS IN THE COMMONS.

In the House of Commons, last month, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, replying to an inquiry by Mr. Houston, whether it was with his knowledge and approval that the Ministry of Shipping recently issued instructions to certain Conference Line steamship owners to increase their rates of freight by 50 per cent., said:—"The fixing of rates in ships requisitioned by the Government is left by the Cabinet to the Minister of Shipping. I am, of course, not consulted in regard to any particular rates."

Mr. Houston asked whether the Government would denounce the Shipping Controller as a profiteer who was making excessive profits.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer—I do not know what the hon. member means. If he means that the Shipping Controller is making personal profits (Mr. Houston—"No."), then he ought to denounce the Government. (Mr. Houston—"Exactly.") I should be sorry to denounce the Government for making profits, which I am afraid are not being made. The object was to fix prices which will cover the cost incurred by the Government.

Sir L. Chiozza Money said it was not surprising that the House as a whole wished to know why the Ministry of Shipping had been compelled to advance freights. The amount paid by the Ministry for a requisitioned liner was the blue book rate, but that was only one of the charges that had to be borne by the Government. In addition there was first the charge for bunker coal, which had risen enormously, and in the next place the advance in wages to seamen beyond pre-war rates. The cash wages of able seamen were twice what they were when war broke out. Then there was the increased war risks insurance. The intensive submarine campaign by the enemy had caused an enormous increase in the rates of insurance, and consequently in Government costs. Take the case of an Australian m.l. steamer. The war risk insurance had risen during the lifetime of the Ministry from £27,775 to £50,000. (An hon. member—For one voyage?) Yes, the accounts showed that the loss on the round voyage was £23,850. (Sir W. Runciman—How long did the voyage take?) It was the round Australian voyage. It would take about three months in normal times, and perhaps ten or eleven months at the present time. On other ships there were losses of £27,273 and £19,424. The accounts had been investigated and an effort made to arrange rates, which would revise these figures in six months, or before it there was a good case for it. He was referring to freights, which were those for carrying Government stores, including the cereal supplies of the country, and represented 85 or 90 per cent. of the imports of the country at the present time. It was true, then, to say that as far as it was humanly possible to do so that percentage of imports was carried at cost. If they were to extend carriage at cost to private controlled supplies at a time when these supplies were exceedingly short, they would be merely taking money out of the pocket of the shipowner in order to present it sometimes to the middleman at home or abroad. Therefore, in the case of uncontrolled supplies the Government considered it to be their duty to authorise shipowners to charge market rates for the carriage of goods to this country, knowing that if they did not do that the advantage of cost freights would not reach the British consumer.

With regard to tea, the new freight rate on Calcutta tea did not represent a large profit to the Ministry of Shipping. The rate was very little above the actual cost of carrying the tea, the increment being less than one-fifth of a penny per lb. He hoped that with the new arrangements made by the Food Controller for the control of tea they would be able to extend the whole benefit of cost carriage to tea. Arrangements were being made to increase tea stocks, and he hoped that in a very short time the position would be considerably improved. He did not think it was discreditable to the Ministry of Shipping that less tea had come in during recent months.

We had been faced with the necessity in connection with shipping of husbanding all our economic resources. What was the use of husbanding our ships when every week saw us with fewer ships than the week before and a greater need of commodities? The Ministry of Shipping had adopted the only method, which was to purchase goods as far as possible in the nearest markets and to divert ships from long voyages to near voyages in order that the carrying power of those ships might be multiplied. The very ships which might have brought a ton of tea from India brought instead two and a half tons of wheat from near markets. The result was that such a stock of bread as we never before possessed existed in the country at present. There was thus good reason for the diversions that had taken place.

IT'S ALL IN THE STATE OF MIND. If you think you are beaten, you are, if you think you dare not, you don't. If you'd like to win, you think you can't. It's almost a cinch you won't. If you think you'll lose, you've lost. For out in the world you find Success begins with a fellow's will. It's all in the state of mind. *Delecta Magazine.*

HONGKONG DEFENCE CORPS.

ORDERS FOR INFANTRY BATTALION BY MAJOR H. A. MORGAN.

CAMP.

Parades for Saturday and Sunday, 22nd and 23rd December, 1917.

Parade Lower Camp, 4.30 p.m., and march to Shatin, bivouac for the night, 22nd/23rd December, at Shatin, and move on to Hongkong on the 23rd December, starting at 8.30 a.m.

The whole of these operations will be under a general and special idea. Commandant hopes that as many men as possible (even if they have completed their 8 or 4 days' attendance) will attend this final parade. For the convenience of those who are unable to get out to Lower Camp, the 22nd December, arrangements will be made for the 8.05 a.m. (mail) on 23rd to stop at Shatin.

With reference to the above, in order to make the necessary arrangements for messing and transport, members are requested to report at once to their Platoon Commanders

(a) Whether they will proceed to Lower Camp.

(b) Whether they will come out to Shatin by train on Sunday.

Platoon Commanders to render a report of approximate numbers under (a) and (b) to the Adjutant at Headquarters before 9.30 a.m. on the 18th December.

Officers will report in writing to the Adjutant whether they will attend under (a) or (b).

Those in Camp and who will be present on Saturday will report to the Orderly-Sergeant.

Reference: Infantry Battalion Orders dated 19th November, 1917, train and ferry arrangements for Saturday and Sunday, 22nd and 23rd December, and the baggage arrangements for 22nd December are cancelled.

PARADE. No. 8 Platoon (Kowloon Dock Sections, 13, 14, and 15 and men of No. 16 Section who have not attended Camp) will parade at Hung Hom Station at 7.50 a.m. on December 23rd for a Field Day.

Dress: Marching order without greatcoats; waterbottles filled; sandwiches in haversacks. The attendance at this parade is compulsory for all under the age of 45 unless leave off has been obtained from the Platoon Commander. This leave will only be granted under very special circumstances. The Platoon Commander will attend by 9.30 a.m. on the 18th inst.

G. E. STEWART, Capt., Adjutant, H.K.D.C. Hongkong, 17th December, 1917.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE. ORDERS ISSUED BY MR. F. C. JENKIN D.S.P.R.

PARADES CENTRAL 5.30 P.M. Tuesday, December 18th.—Nos. 5 and 6 Platoons (No. 2 Company).

Wednesday, December 19th.—No. 2 Platoon.

Thursday, December 20th.—No. 3 Company and Ambulance Platoon under own Chief Inspector.

Friday, December 21st.—No. 1 Platoon. Bids of Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons will be inspected by the Musketry Officers immediately after the fall-in and before roll-call.

MUSKETRY COURSE, PART I. There will be no further practice until Sunday, January 6th. Details of scores to date and analysis of same are posted at Headquarters Club. Unit Commanders are required to make themselves familiar with same for the purpose of future reference.

176 of all ranks have fired to date. Ten have qualified as marksmen and 53 as first-class shots. Highest score to date is 112.

UNIFORM. Members for whom orders for new uniform have been issued are directed to attend without delay at Noordin's for fitting.

BAND AND ORCHESTRA. Tuesday, December 18th.—Band Practice. Wednesday, December 19th.—Clarinet. Thursday, December 21st.—Band Practice.

APPLICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC. (excepting Reports), will in future be addressed to the undersigned only and delivered at the Police Reserve Headquarters Office, not to his business or private address.

STRENGTH. Ambulance P.C. 129 Chan Pak-hang is invalided out.

Bugler 32 Chan Chin-yun, having returned to the Colony, rejoins the Buglers and Drummers.

By Order T. E. HODGE A.S.P.R. and Adjutant. Hongkong, December 17th, 1917.

HELP FOR SMALL TRADERS CALLED TO THE COLOURS.

Mr. Hodge, Minister of Pensions, speaking at Birmingham, recently, said that something must be done for the men who had sacrificed small businesses. Many small traders or shopkeepers had been called to the Colours, and their little bit of business as the result was ruined. When they came back he thought it would be the duty of the Government to restart them. The Queen was very much interested in this problem, and he had had some communications with her respecting it. That morning he was discussing the matter with the Prime Minister, who was very sympathetically inclined towards the ideas which he had placed before him. But as the question was one of money it was necessary that he should see the Chancellor of the Exchequer. At any rate, he had every hope that something would be done. Mr. Bonar Law, he knew, was quite as sympathetic as the Prime Minister was, and was as much alive to the necessity of it as he (Mr. Hodge) was. In a few weeks' time he was hopeful of being able to announce some scheme of dealing with that particular problem.

SPORT.

HONGKONG CRICKET LEAGUE AVERAGES

Saturday was a bowler's day, but still, as a result of the match at Causeway Bay, there are a number of changes in the batting list. J. P. Robinson, the Kowloon captain, comes to the top of the batting averages by virtue of a timely 70 not out, and Claxton, who will probably be seen near the head of the list soon, comes into the table with 56 not out. Ng Sze Kwong's average grows less and less every week, and Abbas, the Craigengower heavy hitter, was also disappointing on Saturday. Stalker still has the highest aggregate. Though he has not been at the top of his form lately, he has made up for this, however, during the last three weeks by coming to the fore as a bowler and he takes second place to Hamilton in the bowling averages. Cobb again improved his already splendid average, while Graham also is creeping steadily up the list.

Crippwell, of the Engineers, secures a prominent place by reason of his performance against Craigengower, and it will be noticed that he has taken more wickets than any other bowler. Given a few more sticky wickets, Crippwell, Reakes and Athorne will quickly improve their positions. Below are the averages corrected to date:—

BATTING AVERAGES.

	Innings	Not out	Runs	High score	Total	Average
J. P. Robinson, K.C.C.	7	4	70	137	45.7	
Ng Sze Kwong, C.R.C.	7	2	105	227	45.4	
K. S. Macaskill, K.C.C.	4	1	45	114	38	
T. E. Pearce, H.K.C.C.	5	1	65	143	37	
Chow Yat Kwong, C.R.C.	4	0	75	148	37	
M. E. Muriel, H.K.C.C.	4	0	76	143	37	
M. H. Abbas, C.C.C.	5	1	39	136	34	
Hamilton, C.S.C.C.	5	0	53	133	33.2	
Lt. Murray, H.K.C.C.	5	0	72	247	30.9	
J. Stalker, K.C.C.	7	0	43	208	29.7	
G. E. Claxton, K.C.C.	5	1	56	115	29	
A. A. Ramjaha, U.C.C.	7	1	72	171	28.5	
D. M. Goodell, C.S.C.C.	6	1	82	141	28.2	
W. Graham, C.C.C.	7	2	52	140	28	
W. Dixon, C.S.C.C.	5	0	56	138	26.6	
Rev. Hastings, Navy	3	0	47	73	24.3	
Sig. Hack, Navy	5	0	45	119	23.8	
G. Lee, C.R.C.	7	1	33	126	21	

BOWLING AVERAGES.

	O.	B.	W.	A.
E. W. Hamilton, C.S.C.C.	64	107	26	6.4
J. Stalker, K.C.C.	47	99	15	6.0
P. H. Cobb, K.C.C.	41	211	29	7.2
Lt. Col. Morgan, H.K.C.C.	29	93	11	8.7
D. E. Donnelly, H.K.C.C.	71	275	31	8.9
K. Brayshaw, U.C.C.	57	165	19	9.1
Rev. Hastings, Navy	25	76	8	9.5
W. Graham, C.C.C.	84	261	26	10
H. Postonji, K.C.C.	85	257	25	10.2
W. Grimmett, C.C.C.	65	223	22	10.3
S. S. Crippwell, R.E.	80	335	32	10.4
Capt. Gray, H.K.C.C.	29	84	8	10.5
R. E. O. Bird, C.S.C.C.	35	88	8	11
Gr. Hancock, R.G.A.	58	225	20	11.2
Com. Gibson, Navy	23	102	9	11.3
G. E. Marley, U.C.C.	77	291	25	11.6
Jr. Athorne, R.G.A.	68	313	17	12.5
Ng Sze Kwong, C.R.C.	62	307	22	14
Q.M.S. Reakes, R.E.	83	315	15	17.5

CRICKET.

In the report of the match between the R.G.A. and Middlesex, published yesterday, the bowling analysis of the R.G.A. was wrongly given. The figures should have been:—

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Athorne	12.3	4	16	6
Boscock	7	0	18	1
Baker	5	1	11	3

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

87th CO., R.G.A. 3; v. 88th CO., R.G.A. 2.

This match, for the Royal Artillery Football Cup, was played on the Club Ground at the Happy Valley, yesterday. It was a good, hard, fast game, both teams having a fair share of the play. The Stonecutters men were rather unfortunate, as Saunders hurt his leg in the early stages and, afterwards, was unable to do much running about. Nevertheless, he managed to be in the right place when it came to shooting and was responsible for all the 87th goals. The visitors were the first to score, Saunders being given possession when unmarked and finding the net with no difficulty. Sharnan scored the equaliser with a fine shot which gave Candy no chance. Then some good work by Talfourd sent Jones away on the right wing. He put in a beautiful centre and the ball was rushed in by Lt. Millington, half-time arriving with the 88th Co. leading by two goals to one.

In the second half there were exciting scenes around both goals in turn, but goals were not forthcoming, and it seemed that the 88th Co. would not be robbed of their lead. Shortly before time, however, Saunders scored a rather simple goal, Griffiths getting his hand to the ball but being unable to hold it, and almost immediately afterwards the same player put his side ahead with another ground shot which the custodian was unable to reach. The game ended in a win for the 87th Co. by 3 goals to 2.

Referee—Sergt. Townsend.

THE BOXING DAY MATCHES

SELECTED TEAMS.

A meeting of the Sub-Committee chosen to select teams and make arrangements for the two matches to be played on Boxing Day was held in Victoria Barracks last evening. Master-Gunner May, R.G.A., occupied the chair and presided over a full attendance. It was decided that the money taken at the stand, and collected on the ground, should be divided equally between the Star and Garter Fund and the Halifax Disaster Fund. The first match is timed for 2.30 p.m. on the Club Ground, and is styled Civilians v. Soldiers. The following players were selected:—

Civilians:—U. M. Omar (St. Joseph's); Cheung Wing Hon (South China Athletic) and E. P. Hyndman (St. Joseph's); Leung Tai Fong (S.C.A.); H. Johnson (St. Joseph's, Captain), and B. Zascoc (Kowloon); B. M. Omar (St. Joseph's); E. A. Mccaden (Kowloon); E. R. Hyndman (St. Joseph's); Au Kit Sang (S.C.A.); and Kwok Po Kun (S.C.A.). Reserves:—R. Jennings (Kowloon); A. Knight (Kowloon) and A. Jackson (St. Joseph's).

Soldiers:—R. Glenney (Staff and Depts.); T. Lawrence (S. and D. Captain) and W. Jones (88th Co.); J. French (Middx. Regt.); S. Waller (R.E. Res.) and W. Sharma (88th Co.); C. Millard (R.E. Res.); J. Watson (88th Co.); Osborne (R.E. Res.); J. Conner (S. and D.) and J. L. Jones (88th Co.). Reserves:—A. Turner (Middx. Regt.); H. Knight (S. and D.) and E. Taylor (88th Co.).

The Civilians will wear white and the Soldiers, Royal Engineers' colours.

Referee, Lieut. Attwell, R.N. Linesmen, Lieut. Dickenson and Mr. C. Bend.

The admission to the stand for this match will be 50 cents; front seats 20 cents.

At 4 p.m. the International Match, England v. Scotland, will be played. The following teams have been selected:—

England:—E. Crocker (Navy); J. Conker (Navy) and F. W. Black (Navy); H. Horport (R.E.); H. Smith (R.E.) and B. Townsend (R.G.A.); J. H. Hutchinson (Navy); E. Llewellyn (Navy); Lieut. J. Sayer (Middx. Regt.); G. Green (R.G.A.) and E. L. Walden (Middx. Regt.). Reserves:—C. Clarke (R.E.); J. Dickenson (R.G.A.); A. E. Talford (R.G.A.) and F. Strange (R.E.).

Scotland:—J. Rodger (Club); W. Irvine (Club) and J. McCubbin (Club); T. Chassels (Club); J. Stewart (Club) and Whites (R.E.); W. T. Youngman (G.A.); H. McTavish (Club); J. Gordon (R.E.); D. Cook (Middx. Regt.) and J. Stalker (Club, Captain). Reserves:—J. Ralston (Club) and D. Bell (R.E.).

Colours:—Scotland, blue; England, White.

Referee, Mr. F. W. Wright.

Linesmen, Mr. B. Pascoe and Mr. W. Frost.

The admission to the stand for this match will be \$1.00; front seats 50 cents.

FAR EASTERN MEN AND THE WAR.

Many friends in the Far East, says the N.C. Daily News, will learn with deep regret that the Standard Oil Co. has received news of the death of Lieut. W. Hamill, 11th Battalion, Manchester Regt., killed in action on August 18th.

A WARNING.

Mr. W. J. Tatcher, Superintendent of the Botanical and Forestry Department, writes:—Owing to the exceedingly dry weather and the very inflammable nature of vegetation on the hillsides at the present time, I would ask for the kind co-operation of the public in the prevention of grass fires.

Matches, cigars and cigarette ends, etc., should not be thrown away in the vicinity of vegetation unless they have been previously extinguished.

Members of picnic parties should see that all fires kindled to boil water, etc., are afterwards properly extinguished before leaving them.

The neglect of any of these precautions is sufficient to destroy the work of years.

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.

THEFT OF COPPER.

A Chinese, oolile pleaded guilty to stealing a quantity of copper from the Kowloon Docks.

Mr. Dyer Ball sentenced defendant to one month's hard labour and four hours' stocks.

A HAWKER FINED.

A Chinese was charged with hawking chickens without a permit.

Defendant pleaded that she was merely taking the chickens to a friend—a school-mistress.

Inspector O'Sullivan stated that when defendant was arrested she admitted that she had been out for the purpose of hawking.

Mr. J. B. Wood fined defendant \$10.

A NEW FEVER ANTIDOTE.

An Indian watchman, employed at the My San Basout factory, pleaded guilty to being drunk and behaving in a disorderly manner.

Defendant pleaded that he was in poor health and suffering from frequent attacks of fever. He had been advised to take intoxicating stimulants. He was a total abstainer before he fell ill.

Sergt. Johnston said defendant was staggering about Wanchai Road under the influence of drink, so witness had him arrested.

Inspector Sim said that defendant had been troublesome a few weeks ago. He was of a querulous temperament and interfered with the Indian constables.

Mr. J. R. Wood fined defendant \$5.

HUSBAND AND WIFE.

A Chinese was charged with abusing his wife in indecent terms.

Inspector Gordon stated that complainant is an amah employed by Mrs. Johnson, of Kowloon. Defendant had been causing complainant great annoyance by going to the place where she is employed and abusing her in indecent language and demanding money. Defendant had been taken to the station and warned several times. Mrs. Johnson, too, had made several complaints. Defendant, however, persistently annoyed the complainant, and was arrested on Saturday.

Mr. J. B. Wood fined defendant \$10; remarking that if he was brought before the Court again he would be sent to gaol.

THEFT OF SHEET IRON.

A Chinese was charged with stealing a piece of sheet-iron from a Japanese steamer in harbour.

The defendant said that the sheet-iron had been given him by a boatman to bring ashore. "Would anyone imagine," he asked, "that I would commit a theft and then bring the stolen article openly? I would have concealed it."

An Indian constable said he noticed defendant carrying the sheet of iron along Praya East. When witness called out the defendant dropped the iron and attempted to escape.

The chief officer of the Japanese vessel claimed the sheet of iron as belonging to his ship. He said it had been left on the deck, and was not missed till a few days ago.

Mr. J. B. Wood sentenced defendant to three months' hard labour.

MAGISTRATE'S GENEROUS ACTION.

An aged Chinese pleaded guilty to a charge of hawking without a licence.

Defendant, who was dressed in tatters, and looked unkempt and dirty, appealed to the Magistrate to discharge him.

Inspector O'Sullivan said defendant had been brought up before the Court some three months ago, when he stated that his junk had been wrecked in the typhoon and that he was in straitened circumstances. Witness thought defendant spoke the truth. Defendant had been promised a free licence, but witness did not know whether he had received it.

Mr. J. B. Wood—Inspector Sullivan, cannot you get the man a free licence?—Witness—I cannot get it, but I suppose a licence could be purchased out of the Poor Funds.

Mr. J. B. Wood (to defendant)—You are discharged. I shall give you a free licence.

The defendant left the dock expressing his gratitude for the magistrate's generous promise.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

A COLD-BLOODED CRIME.

MURDER OF THE POOL INSURANCE CO'S ACCOUNTANT.

TWO CHINESE ON TRIAL.

Before Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Magistrate's yesterday afternoon, two Chinese—Fan Tim, the shroff of the Po On Insurance Company, and Ho Hung, an ex-employee of the same firm—were charged with the murder of the accountant of the Company, on the 21st of August, and also with the robbery of \$5,000 in bank notes.

Mr. R. C. Faithfull appeared for Ho Hung and Mr. B. Johnston for Fan Tim.

Mr. L. Longinotto, Assistant Crown Solicitor, in opening the case for the prosecution, characterised the murder as one of cold-blooded calculation. Undoubtedly, in his opinion, the murder had been engineered by Fan Tim, who being cognisant of the fact that nearly \$5,000 had been received, and would be put into the iron safe, had informed Ho Hung, with whom he was on friendly terms. The men discussed the advisability of robbing the Po On Company, and Fan Tim promised to get another accomplice, a fitter in the employ of the Tramway Company. The prisoners had several meetings to discuss their plans, and it seemed that there was some difficulty in getting the key of the safe from the accountant, as several people slept on the same floor. Ho Hung, therefore, as it was alleged, suggested that the best and safest plan would be to kill the accountant. It was the custom of the deceased accountant to put any money coming in overnight into the safe, and to place the key in a locked desk. The only person who had knowledge of these arrangements was Fan Tim. The deceased was strangled and then the murderers, for theatrical effect, sprinkled a quantity of white powder on the body, probably with the intention of suggesting that deceased had committed suicide. Two knives had also been carefully placed near the banisters at the bottom of the stairs, evidently to point to the theory that the cold-blooded murder had been committed by some malefactor from outside.

Mr. Johnston—Before the evidence is taken I wish to state that I do not acquiesce in the two prisoners being tried together.

Mr. Wood—Do you want a separate hearing? It would involve the Crown in a double case.

Mr. Johnston—It is difficult for me. I do not know what the Crown suggests.

Mr. Wood—I think the interests of both the clients will be safeguarded. You had better make an application for a separate trial at the Court where the trial will be conducted.

Mr. Johnston—There will be evidence against one defendant and not against the other. I want to safeguard the interest of my client as far as possible.

Mr. Wood—Very well. I will enter your application in the proceedings.

Mr. Johnston—Thank you.

Dr. Macfarlane, M.O.H., stated that he made a post-mortem examination of the body of the deceased accountant. There was a black and white string tied round the ankles. There were marks of hemorrhage on the jaw which showed signs of having been pressed down. There were also internal signs of asphyxiation. In his opinion death was due to asphyxiation. He sent the stomach to the Public Analyst for examination.

Mr. G. R. Dovey, Public Analyst, said that he made an examination of the stomach. No poison was found. The packet of powder sent to him for analysis contained 22 grains of a low-grade white pepper powder.

Mr. Vergette, of the P.W.D., produced a sketch of the scene of the murder. The inquiry is proceeding. It is expected to continue for ten days, as there are twenty-seven witnesses to be examined.

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INTIMATIONS

NO BETTER VALUE

IN

XMAS GIFTS

IS OBTAINABLE THAN IN

THOSE SHOWN BY

LANE, CRAWFORD

& COMPANY.

WHICH ARE OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY AND YET OF LOW PRICE.

A VISIT TO OUR STORE WILL PROVE THAT THERE IS NO NEED TO BUY OTHER THAN

BRITISH GOODS FOR YOUR GIFTS.

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS

PAINTS & VARNISHES.

S. W. P.—PREPARED PAINT.

FLAT-TONE—A flat oil paint for interior decoration.

CONCRETE FINISH—The ideal paint for concrete and plaster walls.

WORLD BRAND ZINC—28 lb. pails.

"OLD DUTCH" ENAMEL.

Colour cards and information on application.



Andersen, Meyer & Co., Ltd.
Sole Agents.
Hotel Mansions. Telephone 1990.



Wm. Powell Ltd.
TELEPHONE 346

A Large Variety of Xmas Presents.

Fancy Bags, Hdkfs., Pincushions, Fitted Work Bags, Sachets, Entouteas. Silk and Wool Scarves, Handsome Fur Sets.

Children's

Wool Jackets, Wool and Silk Shoes, Toilet Sets, etc.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS



NOTICE.

IT IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that in accordance with Regulations published under Government Notification No. 514 of 23rd November, 1917, commencing from 1st JANUARY next, all PRIVATE RICKSHAS have to be LICENSED at an Annual Licence fee of \$10 payable in advance. RICKSHA-DRIVERS have to be Licensed at a fee of 50 cents Half-Yearly.

C. Mc. MESSER,
Captain Superintendent of Police,
Hongkong, 15th December, 1917. [1295]

THE SHELL TRANSPORT & TRADING CO., LTD.

ACCORDING to telegraphic advices received to-day, THE SHELL TRANSPORT & TRADING CO., LTD. have declared an INTERIM DIVIDEND on the Ordinary Shares of the Company at the rate of 5/- per Share free of income-tax, payable January 15th, 1918. (Coupon No. 23.)

For THE ASIATIC PETROLEUM CO. (SOUTH CHINA) LTD.,
N. L. WATSON,
Hongkong, 15th December, 1917. [1296]

WANTED.

EMPLOYMENT by an experienced BOOKKEEPER in DE Books with good knowledge of English—sure to satisfy most exacting employer. Interview solicited by—
"HONEST,"
Care of "Daily Press" Office.
[1297]

THE WATERHOUSE STEAMSHIP LINES

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES
FROM VANCOUVER AND JAPAN.

THE Steamship
"MAYACHI MARU"
having arrived from the above ports, Consignees of Cargo by her are hereby informed that all Goods are being landed at 2 1/2 PM next into the Godowns and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, whence and/or from the wharves delivery may be obtained.
Goods not cleared by 27th Dec. at 5 P.M. will be subject to rent.
All broken, chafed and damaged packages are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined by Messrs. GODDARD & DOUGLAS, on the 2nd Dec., at 10 A.M.
Claims against the Steamer must be presented within 10 days of arrival, otherwise they will not be recognised.
No Fire Insurance will be effected by us in any case whatever.
Bills of Lading will be countersigned by JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd., Agents.
Hongkong, 16th December, 1917. [1298]

JOINT SERVICE

"NEDERLAND" and "ROTTERDAM LLOYD" ROYAL MAIL LINES.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE Steamship

"KONINGIN DER NEDERLANDEN"
having arrived from SAN FRANCISCO, Consignees of Cargo are hereby notified that all Goods are being landed at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., whence and/or from the wharves delivery may be obtained.

No Claim will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered on or after 21st Dec. will be subject to rent.

All Claims against the Steamer must be presented to the Underwriter on or before the 25th Dec., or they will not be recognised.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 20th Dec., at 10 A.M., by the Company's surveyors, Messrs. GODDARD & DOUGLAS.

No Fire Insurance whatsoever has been effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by JAYA-CHINA-JAPAN L.L.N., Agents.

Hongkong, 15th December, 1917. [1294]

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM KORA AND MOIL.

THE Steamship

"BANCA"
having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods will be delivered from alongside.

Cargo impeding the discharge will be landed at Consignees' risk and expense, into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by DAVID SASSOON & Co., Ltd., Agents.

Hongkong, 14th December, 1917. [124]

STRAITS MERCHANT SERVICE GUILD.

DISPENSARY Buildings, Raffles Place, Singapore, are HONORARY AGENTS of the Straits Merchant Service Guild, where subscription are received, new Members are enrolled and all Members are welcomed as Visitors during their stay in port.

INTIMATIONS

8% MILITARY LOAN.

REDEMPTION OF DRAWN BONDS.

THE Repayment of 8% Military Bonds drawn at the Third Drawing amounting to \$1,700,000 will commence on 10th December, 1917. The Repayment will be made in SILVER.

THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE.

Peking, 26th November, 1917. [1291]

8% MILITARY LOAN.

REDEMPTION OF BONDS DRAWN AT THIRD DRAWING.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the Public that at the 3rd Drawing for Redemption of the 8 per cent Military Loan Bonds held on 2nd October, 1917, Bonds to the value of \$1,700,000 have been drawn, which amount constitutes about one-fifth of the Bonds recognised by this Ministry. A List of Drawn Bonds is published in the Government Gazette and other newspapers.

Repayment of Bonds sold in Singapore, Batavia and the Philippine Islands will be made by the Branch Offices of the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION at these places. THE BANK OF CHINA, Shanghai, will transfer funds for Repayment of Bonds sold through the Batavia, Soer Po Sak, In Omba, Repayment will be made by the Changsha Guild upon surrender of the Bonds to the BANK OF CHINA, Shanghai; in Yokohama by the CHINESE CONSULATE-GENERAL; in Kiangsi by the Kiangsi Bank; in Fukien by the BANK OF CHINA; in Peking by the BANK OF CHINA. Besides the above cases, Repayment of Drawn Bonds will generally be made by the BANK OF CHINA, Shanghai.

Drawn Bonds when presented must be accompanied by all remaining Coupons, as all such Bonds are not entitled to any further interest after the payment of 11th Coupon. If all remaining Coupons (beginning with the 12th Coupon) are not presented together with the Drawn Bonds, then the total amount represented by these Coupons shall be deducted from the repayable principal.

Drawn Bonds must be presented for Repayment within five years from the date of Third Drawing, after which period of five years such Bonds shall become Null and Void.

\$1,000 each. \$100 each.

Nos.	Tickets.	Nos.	Tickets.
9-10	2	125-155	31
31-32	2	1011-1041	31
55-56	2	1073-1103	31
29-30	4	1135-1165	31
37-38	2	1259-1289	31
52-53	2	1554-1584	31
60-61	2	1696-1726	31
68-69	4	1790-1820	31
334-335	2	5559-5589	31
338-339	2	6438-6468	31
354-355	2	6500-6530	31
358-359	2	6748-6778	31
365-367	2	6810-6840	31
378-379	2	6935-6965	31
474-500	27	7529-7559	31
636-662	27	8210-8240	31
3155-3181	27	9854-9904	107
3209-3262	54	10068-10174	107
3317-3329	6	10282-10495	214
3331-3371	21	10710-10816	107
4045-4071	27	11073-11179	107
4153-4179	27	12101-12207	107
4234-4255	22	12428-12635	214
4257-4280	4	13563-13590	28
4285-4290	2	13701-13724	24
4297-4299	2	13787-13817	31
4294-4298	4	14010-14040	31
4306-4307	2	14078-14095	28
4318-4321	4	14098-14124	27
4339-4370	32	18137-18167	31
5035-5112	28	18361-18391	31
5141-5158	28	18394-18394	1
5309-5338	28	18542-18542	1
5393-5420	28	18572-18573	2
10117-10144	28	19717-19823	107
10231-10256	56	19931-20037	107
10313-10368	56	20787-20893	107
12057-12083	27	21001-21107	107
12111-12137	27	21429-21535	107
12332-12358	27	22071-22177	107
12366-12412	27	22227-22333	107
12494-12520	27	22335-22441	107
12556-12582	27	30001-30034	34
12575-12595	54	30077-30763	107
12596-12606	27	30881-31104	214
12619-12645	27	31133-31639	507
12623-12676	54	31991-32000	10
12685-12711	27	32687	1
12689-12613	25	32691	1
12684-12685	25	32693-32694	2
12694-12697	4	32696-32700	5
		33167-33381	215
		34457-34671	215
		35102-35316	215
		35822-37036	215
		37467-37896	430
		38327-38756	430
		39001-39038	38
		39273-39379	107
		39608-39810	2
		39821-39825	5
		39861-39865	5
		39876-39885	10
		39886-39905	10
			5,430

\$10 each. \$5 each.

Nos.	Tickets.	Nos.	Tickets.
1092-2372	350	2382-3109	528
4273-4352	350	5750-5777	28
5033-5412	350	6006-7333	528
5793-6352	700	7682-8917	1,066
7312-7602	350	8974-10500	527
10745-10805	61	14801	1
11111-11171	61	6784-68421	528
11233-11293	61	70006-70533	528
11355-11476	122	71890-72645	1,056
11599-11659	61	81150-82677	528
12143-12203	61	82696-83233	528

12322-12452	61	87450-87657	528
12575-12696	122	88450-89013	528
12785-12855	61	90509-91125	528
12917-12977	61	93768-94293	528
14405-14465	61	97890-98045	1,054
14527-14587	61	100102-100359	528
14771-14831	61	100398-100435	528
15137-15197	61	104854-104899	1,054
15733-15810	358	105022-105057	528
15183-15184	12	110149-110403	261
16308-16329	122	121001-121029	29
48305-48344	350	122300-122859	430
48405-50184	350	123530-123599	70
57005-57384	380	231635-231654	20
57655-58144	380	231685-231700	16
60805-61184	380	233901-233914	14
61565-61844	380	233945-234000	56
63085-63464	380	235101-235104	4
63605-65744	380	240119-240148	30
64005-69184	760	240369-240418	50
69225-70304	380	240503-240538	36
A47848-47900	53	240599-240658	60
A48101-48108	8	250109-250228	20
A48875-48900	26	250269-250288	20
A49001-49035	35	250499-250528	30
A49097-49200	104	250559-250588	30
A49501-49518	18	250679-250708	30
A49857-49900	44	250859-250938	80
A50201-50215	15	251069-251098	30
A50608-50676	69	251119-251248	30
A51295-51300	6	251429-251458	30
A51401-51453	53	251489-251548	60
A53007-53058	50	251663-251690	28
A53007-53058	50	251775-251803	29
A51353-51734	382	251859-251896	38
A5001-53058	382		
A54027-54408	382		
		11,025	
			[1292]

NOTICE.

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that DELIVERY ORDER No. 310 to our order covering two hundred steel plates ex ss. "THORNDIA" arrived from Seattle on the 7th day of November, 1917 has been LOST and is now Cancelled.

MITSUI BUSSAN KAISHA, LTD.
Hongkong, 13th December, 1917. [1276]

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LTD.

THE CERTIFICATE No. 4100 for Fourteen Shares Nos. 13464/13477 in the name of MARY SAUVAGE PERRY has been LOST or STOLEN, and if at the expiration of One Month from the date hereof the above documents be not forthcoming, another Certificate for the said Shares will be issued by the Society and thereafter no other will be acknowledged.

C. MONTAGUE EDE,
General Manager.
Hongkong, 15th December, 1917. [1286]

THE HONGKONG ELECTRIC CO., LIMITED.

BEFORE purchasing ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES for use in connection with the Company's supply, Consumers are recommended to consult with the Underwriter with a view to ascertaining—
1. If the Appliances and their use, are in accordance with the Company's Regulations.
2. If the Wiring of the premises, where it is intended to install such Appliances, is suitable.

It is important that the foregoing information should be obtained from the Company, as not only does the neglect to do so endanger property by fire, but in addition may lead to a contravention of the Ordinance.

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co., Agents.
[1287]

CENTRAL BUREAU OF LIQUIDATION OF THE DEUTSCH-ASIATISCHE BANK IN CHINA.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that under instructions from the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China, the business in China of the DEUTSCH-ASIATISCHE BANK has been placed in Liquidation.

All Parties of Chinese, Allied and Neutral nationalities having Claims against the said Bank in Canton are hereby required to notify the Canton Bureau of Liquidation of their Claims, within one month from this date.

AND NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN, that all Parties indebted to the said Bank must discharge their liabilities within the month from this date, after which period the Central Bureau of Liquidation will take such action as may be necessary.

LOCAL BUREAU OF LIQUIDATION OF THE DEUTSCH-ASIATISCHE BANK, CANTON.
Canton, 1st December, 1917. [1238]

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

NOTIFICATION.

IT IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that on the 8th January, at 3 P.M., at the PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, and before a Committee presided by the Engineer Director of the Public Works, tenders will be received for the contract of "ERECTION OF A BUILDING FOR THE COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE."

The conditions of the tendering, the specifications and the Plans of the Building are open to the Public at the PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT and at the PORTUGUESE CONSULATE in Hongkong, where they can be examined all week days.

Maao, Public Works Department, 6th December, 1917.

RAUL M. DE FARIA e MATA,
Engineer Director. [1293]

YOU ARE INVITED to come and inspect our Fine Assortment of

DOLLS, TOYS, and CHRISTMAS CARDS.

Prices from 10 Cents upwards.

GRACA & CO.,
No. 4, WYNDHAM STREET, Hongkong.

INTIMATION

WINES AND SPIRITS

ASSORTED CASES FOR KMAS.

Case No. 1. \$22.00

- 3 Bots. St. Estephe Claret.
- 2 " Light Dry Sherry.
- 2 " Port, Full Bodied.
- 1 Bot. Superior Old Cognac.
- 1 " Very Old Liqueur Scotch Whisky "E" Quality.
- 1 " Dewar's Scotch Whisky.

Case No. 2. \$28.00

- 1 Bot. St. Marceaux Champagne.
- 1 " Burgundy "Beane".
- 3 Bots. St. Estephe Claret.
- 1 Bot. Light Dry Sherry, Sandeman's.
- 1 " Port, Superior Light Invalid.
- 1 " Superior Old Liqueur Cognac.
- 1 " Very Old Liqueur Scotch Whisky "E" Quality.
- 1 " Dewar's Scotch Whisky.
- 1 " Gin.
- 1 " Orange Curacao.

Case No. 3. \$32.00

- 1 Bot. St. Marceaux Champagne.
- 1 " Old Brown Sherry "E.E." Quality.
- 2 Bots. Superior Old Port "D" Quality.
- 1 " Very Finest OLD BROWN Brandy "E" Quality.
- 1 " Very Old Liqueur Scotch Whisky "E" Quality.
- 1 " Killey Liqueur Whisky (guaranteed 20 years old).
- 3 Bots. St. Julien Claret.
- 1 Bot. Gin.
- 1 " Orange Curacao.

SPECIAL CASES PUT UP TO ORDER.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

TELEPHONE 610

[12]

MARRIAGE.

GORDON-BURKE—At Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, on December 10th, ERNEST HERBERT, eldest son of ALFRED ERNEST GORDON, Bedford, to RITA ALTHEA, third daughter of JAMES BURKE, London.

DEATHS.

MICHAEL—Suddenly, at the Shanghai General Hospital, on December 11th, ISAAC R. MICHAEL, aged 63 years.

YOUNG—At the Isolation Hospital, Shanghai, on December 9th, A. T. YOUNG, aged 27 years.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 104, DES VOUX ROAD, C. LONDON; OFFICE: 1

THE WAR.

RUSSO-GERMAN ARMISTICE SIGNED.

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN IMMEDIATELY.

BRITISH DESTROYER SUNK.

ACCOUNT OF JERUSALEM SURRENDER.

Franco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BRITISH FRONT.

GENERAL REPORT.

LONDON, December 17th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—We drove off an attack westward of Villers-Guislain, and repulsed a bombing attack northward of La Vacquerie. We slightly improved our position eastward of Avion.

We repulsed a raid southward of Armentieres.

There was mutual artillery activity southward of the Scarpe and increased hostile artillery firing northward of Langemarck.

Our aeroplanes fired many rounds at trenches and bombed numerous targets, including two long-range gun-positions south-westward of Lille.

Enemy aircraft were active, and we brought down three and drove down two. None of our machines are missing.

EARLIER CABLES.

GENERAL REPORTS.

LONDON, December 16th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—We completely repulsed a local attack last night eastward of Bullecourt and successfully raided northward of Bullecourt this afternoon, destroying dugouts and capturing prisoners.

The Portuguese troops elsewhere captured a few prisoners in patrol encounters. There was local fighting in the neighbourhood of the Poldershoek Chateau.

There is no change in the situation.

There was considerable hostile artillery firing in the neighbourhood of Hargicourt, Flesquieres, between Gavrelle and Lens, and also at Paschendale.

LATER.

We captured prisoners and a machine-gun during night patrol encounters southward of Cambrai.

GERMAN REPORT.

LONDON, December 16th.

A wireless German official report states:—We advanced our lines to the park of the Poelduhoek Chateau.

English attacks at Monchy and Bullecourt failed.

LATEST CABLES.

FRENCH FRONT.

ARTILLERY DUEL.

PARIS, December 17th.

A communiqué states:—There was an intermittent artillery duel along the greater part of the front, which was fairly violent in the region north of Bois-des-Cauriers.

EARLIER CABLES.

ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

LONDON, December 16th.

A communiqué states:—There was fairly great reciprocal artillery activity between the Aisne and the Oise, and on the right of the Meuse, notably in the region of Les Chambres.

An attempted evening attack in Champagne, west of Mont Cornillet, was broken.

Five German aeroplanes were brought down and three others crashed to the ground.

PARIS, December 14th.

A communiqué states:—A German attack was repulsed at Chaume Wood and the assailants were dispersed by our fire.

The Near East.

LATEST CABLES.
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE SURRENDER OF JERUSALEM.

LONDON, December 17th.

Reuter's Correspondent at Palestine Headquarters, in a despatch dated 11th inst., by aeroplane from Jerusalem, fully describes the capture and conditions of Jerusalem. He emphasises the heartfelt gladness of all the city's population with which the British were received. A British General who entered the town early in the morning to take the surrender was surrounded by huge crowds laughing, crying and hand-clapping, and showering flowers upon the accompanying officers. These feelings of gratitude were intensified, because despite provocation not a single gun or rifle had been fired upon the city.

The operations which resulted in the capture of Jerusalem began on the 17th inst. The Turks held a strong line west, south and north to east of Jerusalem of which was abundantly provided with machine-guns.

[Part of message missing.]

The enemy still held the crest of the ridge overlooking the city, with numerous machine-guns posted in the houses of the German colonists on the outskirts of Jerusalem. On the 8th inst. the London troops magnificently stormed the ridge, traversing the ground strewn with boulders and driving out the Turks at the point of the bayonet with exceedingly heavy losses. In the defence of Jerusalem the Turks had displayed a more desperate spirit in any previous fighting, standing their ground to the last and meeting bayonet with bayonet. During the night the Turks withdrew to the north and east of the city, and at eight o'clock on the morning of the 9th inst. the Mayor, with the Chief of Police, surrendered the town.

EARLIER CABLES.

IMPORTANT CAPTURES IN PALESTINE.

LONDON, December 16th.

A Palestine official report states:—We advanced our left and centre yesterday north-eastward of Ludd on a five mile front to a maximum depth of one-and-a-half miles, meeting little opposition. We occupied Kibbiyah, Ahiannah, Khelbornat, and the ridge overlooking El Tihah.

Our aeroplanes dropped 50 bombs on the motor-boat sheds and troops at the mouth of the Jordan, with good effect, obtaining 24 hits.

LINE ADVANCED.

LONDON, December 15th.

A Palestine official report states:—We further extended our line north-east of Jerusalem, capturing 140 prisoners.

Aerial Activities.

EARLIER CABLES.

BRITISH AIRSHIPS' MISFORTUNE.

LONDON, December 15th.

The Admiralty announce that a British airship of the non-rigid type with a crew of five proceeded on patrol duty on December 11th from an East Coast base and did not return. It is believed to have been destroyed by a hostile seaplane in the southern part of the North Sea.

A second airship of similar type was forced to descend, owing to engine failure, in Holland on the 12th instant.

Italian Front.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

ITALIAN FRONT.

A DISMAL BATTLEFIELD.

LONDON, December 16th.

Reuter's Correspondent with the French Army in Italy, in describing the artillery defence belt of Venice, which is entirely a naval affair, states that the vast stretch of country bounded by the Adriatic and the Piave was flooded in order to check the Austrians. The enemy can never pass. High-banked roads and farm-houses alone remain above water. Some of these farm-houses are held by Austrians, others by Italians, and each seeks to destroy enemy-held farms.

The awful desolation of Flanders is alone comparable with the dismalness of this wintry battlefield.

DESERTED VENICE.

LONDON, December 16th.

The Italians' formidable array of artillery is superior to the Austrians in this part of the front. The Italians have floating batteries, which work hard at night-time frustrating the enemy attempts to construct field-works and lay bridges over boats across the Piave.

The Correspondent says that the statues of Venice are bricked up and historic buildings are sandbagged. So far only a slight aeroplane bomb damage has been done, and most of the shops are closed. The gondolas have vanished, and only 1,000 out of 150,000 Venetians remain in the City.

AUSTRIAN ADVANCE.

LONDON, December 16th.

A wireless German official report states:—The Austrians stormed the positions southward of Col Caprile, capturing several hundred prisoners.

GERMAN CLAIM.

LONDON, December 15th.

A wireless German official report states:—We captured 3,000 during the last few days between the Brenta and the Piave.

ATTACK, COUNTER-ATTACK AND POSITIONS HELD.

LONDON, December 15th.

An Italian official report states:—The battle between the Brenta and Piave has continued fiercely.

The enemy launched a mass attack yesterday afternoon. Our counter-offensive, aiming at lightening the pressure, twice reached the summit of Monte Pertica. The enemy thrust was most violent at Col Caprile and southward of Col Della Berretta.

Our counter-attack completely repulsed the assault with heavy losses. The enemy again attacked, and reached Col Caprile. We firmly held our positions.

A little to the rear we twice repulsed strong attacks at the head of the Monte Solarolo salient.

Naval Activities.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BRITISH DESTROYER SUNK.

LONDON, December 15th.

A British destroyer was sunk on the 12th instant as a result of a collision. Two men missing.

General.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE GERMAN PEACE MANOEUVRE.

BRITISH DENIAL.

LONDON, December 16th.

Lord Robert Cecil has informed Reuter's Agency that what purports to be the German reply to Mr. Balfour's statement in Parliament regarding the German peace overture last September is quite untrue. Following the lead of President Wilson, Great Britain has been continually endeavouring to discover what are Germany's war aims, and has repeatedly endeavoured to get this information by means of ministerial speeches, but so far her efforts have been unsuccessful. It is, however, utterly untrue to suggest that any private enquiries have been addressed to the enemy with the knowledge of the British Government.

RUSSIAN AFFAIRS.

GENERAL NEWS.

LONDON, December 16th.

Reuter's Correspondent at Petrograd, telegraphing yesterday, states:—Meetings of the Imailovsky and Petrogradsky Regiments resolved upon the immediate removal of the ex-Tsar, "with Alice and family," to Kronstadt or the fortress of Peter and Paul, and the cancellation of all privileges. While the meeting was in progress a report was circulated that the ex-Tsar had escaped, but the report was not confirmed.

At meetings of most of the units of the Petrograd Garrison those present sided with the People's Commissioners, and the Soviet against the Constituent Assembly in its original form. Attempts of the members of the Constituent Assembly to meet at the Taurida Palace have been abandoned since the sailors expelled them.

The Red Guards broke up a meeting of the union and defence constituents. There were 40 arrests.

There were uproarious scenes at the Pensante Congress between the supporters and opponents of the Constituent Assembly.

The demolition of the wine stores in Petrograd continues, accompanied by orgies and considerable shooting.

ARMISTICE SIGNED.

LONDON, December 16th.

A wireless Russian official report states that General Krylenko has issued a proclamation announcing that the armistice treaty with Germany has been signed.

General Krylenko also adds that it is proposed to cease all military operations until the full text of the treaty is received.

TERMS AGREED UPON.

PETROGRAD, December 16th.

The Bolshevik Agency states that on the 16th inst. Russia and Germany agreed upon the terms of the armistice.

RUSSO-GERMAN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

LONDON, December 16th.

A wireless German official report states:—The armistice was signed at Breslitovsk yesterday.

It begins on the 17th inst. and ends on January 14th.

Unless a week's notice is given it continues automatically.

It extends to all land, air, and naval forces of the common fronts.

The peace negotiations begin immediately.

THE TRANSFER OF TROOPS.

PETROGRAD, December 16th.

The Secretary of the Maximalist armistice plenipotentiaries has telegraphed that the enemy delegates have agreed to continue the arrangements for transferring more troops from the Eastern to the Western Fronts. Too much importance, however, is not attached to this, as the enemy has probably completed his desired arrangements.

CHURCH AND STATE.

The People's Commissioners will shortly issue a decree separating the Church from the State, providing for the confiscation of Church lands, the surrender by the ecclesiastics of the rich canonical and ornaments, and the abolition of the clergy's privileges.

THE COMMEMORATION SERVICE.

LONDON, December 15th.

The following is the concluding portion of yesterday's message:—

The heroes were conveyed to the Albert Hall in motor-transport, amid cheering crowds. The Hall itself was filled to the utmost. Besides their Majesties the King and Queen there were also present the Princesses Mary, Alice, and Victoria, Prince Arthur of Connaught and Princess Patricia and Beatrice, Queen Alexandra, and many members of the Government and Parliament.

THE SILVER MARKET.

LONDON, December 16th.

Silver is quoted 43d. per ounce, and there is less inquiry.

GERMANY AND RAW MATERIALS.

LONDON, December 16th.

There is evidence that Germany is becoming seriously alarmed at the prospect of not being able to obtain raw materials after the war. She admits her dependence for raw materials on foreign countries, especially England.

Von Tirpitz, speaking at Berlin, declared that conditions would be imposed guaranteeing the supply of raw materials now lacking.

THE U-BOAT POLICY.

The Lokalanzeiger threatens that the U-boats will not be withdrawn.

VON TIRPITZ SAYS BRITAIN HAS WON!

AMSTERDAM, December 16th.

Admiral von Tirpitz, speaking at Hamburg, reiterated that Great Britain at present has won rather than lost. Therefore, a peace based on the *status quo ante bellum* was out of the question. Another factor for consideration was the sure building of the Channel Tunnel after the war.

Admiral von Tirpitz expressed his continued confidence in submarines.

WHAT GERMANY MUST HAVE.

Speaking at Berlin, Admiral von Tirpitz said that Germany must retain Flanders, Antwerp, Ostend, and Zebrugge, certain French territory, and also take Calais and Boulogne.

AMERICA A DEADLY ENEMY.

Referring to America's entry into the war, Admiral von Tirpitz said "America is our deadliest enemy, despite the tonnage scarcity."

GCMG FOR GENERAL ALLENBY.

LONDON, December 16th.

General Allenby has received the Grand Cross of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George.

VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT AT THE CLUB LUSITANO.

IN AID OF PORTUGUESE RED CROSS FUNDS.

A delightful entertainment, organised by the members of the Club Lusitano, took place last night in the commodious hall of the Club at Caine Road. The entertainment which was in aid of the Portuguese Red Cross Fund, was under the patronage of Mr. E. V. M. R. de Sousa, Consul for Portugal, who was amongst the large audience present. The hall was decorated for the occasion, the stage in particular being artistically illuminated. The entertainment opened with two Choruses—"It was a Knight" and "Angelus," from "Maritana," which were well rendered and were well received. Miss Bertha Xavier was the Soloist, while Miss Esther Xavier accompanied at the piano. The Chorus comprised Misses Bertha Xavier, Beatrice Castro, Elfrida Osmund, Gertrude Pinna, Marie de Sousa, Anizia Lopes, Phyllis d'Almada e Castro, Annie Silva and Messrs. George A. Vas, F. A. M. Rosario, A. F. Baptista, R. D. Baptista, D. Castro, L. E. Remedios, M. H. Baptista, E. G. d'Aquino, A. M. O. Remedios, V. M. Barradas, J. M. J. Lopes, C. H. Osmund, G. V. Osmund, A. F. Osmund, S. V. Monteiro, and F. Remedios. This was followed by a one-act farce, entitled "Packing Up" which was performed by Miss Annie Silva, Mr. J. V. Remedios, and Mr. Jack Braga, and provided much amusement. After an interval of ten minutes, during which refreshments were on sale, the second part of the programme was gone through, consisting of "The Stunts" and their Jester. Several solos and duets, were included in the programme, the duet "You're the only one for me," by Miss Anizia Lopes and Mr. K. Baptista, was exceedingly fine, so were the solo, "I have been to the pictures," by Miss Phyllis d'Almada e Castro, and the Quartet, "Italiano," by Misses de Castro, and G. Pinna and Messrs. G. Vas and F. Remedios. The personnel of the "Stunts" were Misses E. Osmund, M. de Sousa, A. Silva, P. d'Almada, E. Castro, A. Lopes, G. Pinna, and Messrs. G. Vas, B. Baptista, J. F. V. Remedios, E. G. d'Aquino, F. Remedios, D. Castro, & Mr. J. Braga, while Mr. P. A. Rosario accompanied at the piano. There were also several tableaux vivantes. It is expected that a considerable sum has been realized.

CHINESE TELEGRAMS.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

PEKING, December 17th.

The President has appointed Tso Kua a First Commander and Chang Kwai-tea a Second Commander.

It is suggested that the Senate should be enlarged by the increase of hereditary and official members and members representing science, and that the Lower House should be reduced to 332 members. These suggestions have been submitted to a special meeting of the Senate.

The President will send Hsu Shi-ling and Chang Shi-chao to Hunan to mediate.

The French Minister has visited the President.

CANTON NEWS.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

CANTON, December 17th.

GENERAL LUNG'S MOVEMENTS. A message from King-Chow reports the arrival of General Lung Chai-kwong. General Lung has armed six launches with modern weapons.

It is reported that General Lung has sent more than six regiments of his troops to Lui-Chow, from where it is stated the troops are to make an attack on Kwongsi.

PROPOSED ATTACK ON GENERAL LUNG.

The Tsuchun, Mok Wing-sun, has had a conference with the military leaders. The meeting was secret, but we learn that it was decided that an attack should be made on General Lung, and troops were dispatched this morning.

THE FALL OF SWATOW.

It is reported that Swatow was captured after a few hours' fighting. Its fall was largely due to the Northern Squadron, which assisted the Canton troops.

After their co-operation with the Canton troops the three gunboats *Hoi Yung*, *Chao Him* and *Keng Hong* declared their independence, and their determination to support the South-West.

Commander Lau Chi-luk, who captured Swatow, has been appointed Defence Commissioner of Chui-Chow, and Moy-Chow will succeed Mok King-yu, who has fled.

PEACE IN HUNAN.

Tam Ho-ming, Commander of the Southerners in Hunan, has wired to the authorities saying that he has ordered his troops to stop fighting for a week at the Hunan front. Negotiations are being carried on, and it is hoped that permanent peace will result.

DISEASE RAMPANT.

GERMAN CITIES PAY THE PRICE FOR MAILED FIST.

Thousands of letters taken from German prisoners captured at Verdun during and since the attack of August 20th refer in the most harrowing terms to the ravages of dysentery, cholera, and typhus in many parts of Germany. Over one-half of the letters, says the United Press correspondent, contained references to the spread of dysentery, which is caused by improper and insalubrious food. A smaller proportion of the letters speak of epidemics of cholera and typhus. What makes these letters all the more reflective of the condition in Germany is that all of them had been carefully censored before being sent to the soldiers at the front. Presumably the details cut out by the censor were far more serious than those allowed to pass. Following are typical extracts:—

Burscheid, August 6th, 1917.—I believe it will soon be the end. It cannot continue like this, for the people in the interior are disappearing as well. At Mannheim dysentery has existed for a long time, and the streets are closed, and now it exists also at Burscheid. Mamma is very much afraid because a great many people are dying of it. They fall almost like flies.

Cologne, August 5th.—I rejoice that you have your leave. I hope they won't suppress it, in spite of the epidemic of dysentery that has broken out here. The barracks and hospitals have been closed for 15 days. The dysentery reigns also amongst the civil population. People no longer have any fat or grease left in their bodies. Many have died of it.

Mayence, August 11.—For several days both cholera and typhus have made their appearance, to the extent that several streets have been closed to traffic.

Gollub, August 6th.—At Crouden and Thorn people are dying of cholera. We can be sure that the disease will come here also. My God! We must die now or later.

Chemnitz, August 2nd.—There is nothing to be given to the children. It is terribly sad. The four children of Weir-worn have become consumptive, and the little Hamel child also has tuberculosis. The horses are obliged to gallop.

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